

## BOOK REVIEW

JONATHAN SILVERTOWN. 2009. **An Orchard Invisible: A Natural History of Seeds.** (ISBN: 978-0-226-75773-5, hbk.). The University of Chicago Press, 1427 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637, U.S.A. (Orders: [www.press.uchicago.edu](http://www.press.uchicago.edu), 1-773-702-7000, 1-773-702-9756 fax). \$25.00, 224 pp., 21 halftones, 5½" × 8½".

*Contents:*

1. An Orchard Invisible: Seeds
2. First Forms Minute: Evolution
3. Even Beans Do It: Sex
4. Before the Seed: Pollination
5. According to Their Own Kinds: Inheritance
6. O Rose, Thou Art Sick!: Enemies
7. The Biggest Coconut I Ever See: Size
8. Then Thousand Acorns: Number
9. Luscious Clusters of the Vine: Fruit
10. Winged Seeds: Dispersal
11. Circumstance Unknown: Fate
12. Fierce Energy: Germination
13. Sorrow's Mysteries: Poisons
14. Ah, Sun-flower!: Oil
15. John Barleycorn: Beer
16. Realm of Illusion: Coffee
17. Nourishment & Inspiration: Gastronomy

Scientific Names

Sources for Further Reading

Index

Silvertown has written a wonderfully entertaining, easy-to-read history of seeds that examines evolution, pollination, genetics, seed dispersal, defense mechanisms, and economic uses of seeds. Silvertown does a wonderful job of encompassing such a wide range of topics regarding seeds through beautifully written stories.

*A Natural History of Seeds* is a must read for anyone with an interest in ethnobotany, plants, evolution, or even anthropology. There is something in this book for everyone!—*Rebecca Swadek, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 500 E 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.*